

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being canceled or amended.

Claims 55 and 56 are currently being added.

This amendment and reply adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding the claims as set forth above, claims 28-31, 38, 39 and 55-56 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,154,777 to Ebrahim; claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,985,964 to Petersen; claim 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebrahim in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0031142 to Metin; claim 30 was rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petersen in view of Metin; claim 30 was rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebrahim in view of Metin; and claims 31 and 39 were rejected 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebrahim and Metin and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,139,838 to Squire.

With respect to these rejections, please refer to the Remarks provided in the now-entered amendment and reply filed on November 29, 2007.

New Claim:

New claims 55 and 56 have been added, whereby support for these new dependent claims may be found in Figure 19, step S409 of the drawings. Such features as recited in claims 55 and 56 are not believed to be taught or suggested by the cited art of record, when taken as a whole.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date January 14, 2008

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6014
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By Phillip J. Articola

George C. Beck
Registration No. 38,072

Phillip J. Articola
Registration No. 38,819